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## **Sen. Brown announces that legislation assisting recovery of manufacturing and tool & die industries signed by governor**

**Lansing** – State Sen. Cameron S. Brown (R-Fawn River Township) today announced that legislation introduced by Republican members of the Michigan Senate aimed at helping the manufacturing and tool & die industry recover was recently signed into law by the governor.

“The tool & die industry is essential to Michigan’s economy,” Brown said. “The tool and die industry is a bellwether industry, an indicator of manufacturing strength. These laws are designed to attract new businesses and provide incentives for current businesses to stay in our state. The more job opportunities for our residents, the healthier our economy.”

As part of the manufacturing package, Brown has sponsored Senate Bill 866 to exempt start-up businesses from city income taxes for their first five years if the business does not make a profit. In addition, Brown convened a Manufacturer’s Roundtable on Dec. 15 to hear firsthand from manufacturers on the substantive steps the state and federal government must take to retain and expand the manufacturing base in Michigan.

Being home to the Big 3 Automakers, Michigan has naturally been a place for manufacturing and tool & die businesses to set up shop. Due to competition from foreign countries such as China, where the industry is subsidized by the government, U.S. manufacturing industries have been at a substantial disadvantage.

According to Brown, Senate Republicans introduced the Tool & Die Recovery Package to help Michigan keep a competitive edge in the manufacturing business.

The new laws will:

- Establish Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to the successful Renaissance Zone program, allowing a tax reduction to help keep the industry competitive while providing incentives for businesses to collaborate for efficiency.
- Create a new exemption in the Personal Property Tax Act, allowing the equipment required by tool & die manufacturers to be exempt from the personal property tax. This will allow for increased competitiveness and additional job opportunities.
- Increase the apprentice training credit in the Single Business Tax. A better-trained workforce will entice employers to locate in Michigan, leading to more job opportunities.

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The Tool & Die Package is part of the nine-point Job Opportunities for Business Success plan, a joint effort between Senate and House Republicans, introduced this past fall.

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